

MACROPUS GIGANTEUS.



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Dentes primores superiores 6, emarginati.

Inferiores 2, validissimi, acuminati, antrorum porrecti.

Molares utrinque 4? remoti.

Pedes antici brevissimi; postici longissimi.

Folliculus abdominalis. (Fœminæ)

G. S.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

MACROPUS cauda sensim attenuata.

G. S.

YERBOA GIGANTEA.

Zimmerman. 526.

KANGUROO OPOSSUM.

Pennant. Hist. Quadr. p. 306.

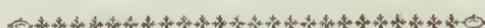
Inter quadrupedes anomalum omnino et singulare est animal *Kanguroo* dictum. Genus a PENNANTIO disponitur nomine *Didelphis* seu *Opossum*, cui sene maxime est affine. Affine tamen est et Murini generis certis speciebus, quas describit LINNÆUS, quibus pedes posteriores insolitæ sunt longitudinis, pedesque anteriores insolitæ brevitatis. Inter illas est species valde singularis, communiter *Yerboa* nominata, quæ a LIN-

NÆO Mus Jaculus dicta est, cui gestus situsque corporis sunt avi similes, pedibus utpote posterioribus tantum insistenti, anterioribus non nisi inter edendum, et terram pro cubili scalpendum utenti. Differt in hoc *Kanguroo* a *Jerboa*, quod dum pedibus tantum posterioribus quiescit, metatarsum? adeo productum habet ut primo intuitu tota velut tibia videatur terræ inniti: at *Jerboa* pedibus solis nititur. *Kanguroo* foemina sacculum habet in abdomine, ut et vulgaris seu magna *Didelphis*. Utrique maxillæ insunt quatuor? dentes molares, ab aliis dentibus remoti. Maxillæ superiori insunt sex dentes incisores, validi, lati, paulum bifidi, seu medio leviter exciso. (emarginati.) In fronte maxillæ inferioris sunt dentes duo proinuentes, maximi, validissimi, acutissimi. Pedes anteriores in quinque digitos longos divisi sunt, unguibus acutis munitos. Pedum autem posteriorum forma est valde singularis; Primo intuitu tridactyli apparent, digitis nempe tribus instructi. Digitus medius validissimus, maximus, ungue itidem maximo et validissimo armatus. Digi-
ti laterales utrinque minores sunt, unguibus proportionatis; quorum interior, si prope conspicitur, duplex videtur, sive ex unguibus duobus valde vicinis constans. Pedes itaque posteriores revera sunt tetradactyli, seu digitis quatuor instructi. Hæc observatio (quæ, ut videtur primos spectatores effugit,) certe est accurata; posuit etiam esse utilis; affinitatem enim maximam demonstrat inter hanc speciem et aliam a pictore *Le Brun* nomine *Philandri* descriptam, in qua unguis interior duplex plane conspicitur. In alia quoque *Kanguroo* specie Novam Hollandiam cum *Kanguroo* magno inco-
lente

lente, eadem observatur pedis structura. In suo genere *Kanguroo* est species facile maxima; utpote ovi adulatae magnitudine par. Caput collumque, cum parte corporis superiore gracilia sunt; corporis autem pars posterior permagna est et carnosa. Insolitae est agilitatis, saltibus altis adeo et longis progrediens, ut canes *Graii* dicti facile ab illo in cursu superentur.

Novam Hollandiam incolit *Kanguroo*, ibi frequenter conspectus. Victum praebet non insalubrem. Vegetabilibus solis vescitur.

T H E
G R E A T K A N G U R O O.



G E N E R I C C H A R A C T E R.

Six *Cutting Teeth* in the upper jaw, slightly emarginated.

Two very strong, sharpened *Teeth* in the lower jaw, pointing forwards.

Grinders on each side 4? distant from the other teeth.

An *Abdominal Pouch*. (in the female.)

G. S,

S P E C I F I C C H A R A C T E R, &c.

KANGUROO, with the tail gradually attenuated.

G. S.

KANGUROO OPUSSUM.

Pennant. Hist. Quadr. p. 306.

KANGUROO.

Cook's Voyage. 3. p. 577.

The Kanguroo is a very anomalous and extraordinary quadruped. The genus to which it bears the greatest affinity, is that of *Didelphis* or *Opossum*, in which genus



London Published by W. H. Worster & Co. 1830.

genus it is placed by MR. PENNANT; but it has also some affinity with those species of the Linnaean genus *Mus*, which are furnished with hind legs of a very remarkable length, and fore-legs as remarkably short. One of the most singular of these is the creature called the Jerboa, which is the *Mus Jaculus* of LINNÆUS; an animal which has the general actions and attitudes of a bird; standing on its hind legs, and making use of the fore-legs only in feeding and in scratching or burrowing in the ground.

The Kangaroo, like the Jerboa, rests only on its hind legs, but the whole metatarsus? having the appearance of the tibia, rests on the ground, whereas the Jerboa more frequently seems to stand on the feet alone. The female Kangaroo is furnished with a ventral pouch, in the same manner as the large or common Opossum. In each jaw there are 4? grinding teeth, or dentes molares; these are situated backwards, at a distance from the front-teeth. Of these, *viz.* the front or cutting teeth, (*incisores*,) there are 6 in the upper jaw, of a broad shape, and appear as if approaching to a bifid figure, or with a part cut out from the middle edge (*emarginated*). In the front of the lower jaw are two extremely large, sharp, and strong teeth, which incline forward. The fore feet are divided into five longish toes, with sharp claws; but the structure of the hind feet is extremely remarkable. At first view, the foot seems to be tridactylous, or to consist of three toes; the middle toe is most uncommonly strong and large, and furnished with a claw of proportional magnitude; the side toes are much smaller, and the

claw

claw of the interior one, if closely examined, will be found to be double, or to consist of two claws very close to each other; so that in reality, the hind feet are tetradyctylous, or have four claws. This particular, (which seems to have escaped the first observers) is both curious and important, as it seems to shew how very nearly this animal is allied to another anomalous species of quadruped, which has long ago been described by Le Brun, the painter, under the name of the Philander, in which the same particularity (*viz.* the double inner claw) takes place; as likewise in a small species of Kangaroo, which, like the large species here figured, inhabits New Holland.

The tail of the Kangaroo is very long, and gradually tapers to the end.

The Kangaroo is by far the largest animal of its genus; being as large as full-grown sheep. Its head and neck, and whole upper parts are very slim and delicate; while the lower part of the body is very large and muscular. It is a creature of surprising agility, and springs forwards, by leaping to so uncommon a height, and to so great a distance, as to outstrip the fleetest pursuit; the swiftest greyhound being easily and soon distanced by this wonderful quadruped.

It is a native of New Holland, where it is found in plenty, and is esteemed a useful article of food.